

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1039

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 303

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: UNEASE IN ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY AS CEASEFIRE TOTTERS

REF: BELFAST 301

1. THE PROVISIONAL IRA HAS ADMITTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIVE OF SIX BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN LONDONDERRY THROUGHOUT THIS WEEK. THE TONE OF WARNINGS EXCHANGED THROUGH THE MEDIA BETWEEN NORTHERN IRELAND GOVERNMENT AND PROVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN DUBLIN AND BELFAST INDICATE A TOUGHENING ON BOTH SIDES. IT APPEARS THAT THE PROVISIONAL COMMAND HAS GIVEN AUTHORITY FOR LOCAL UNITS IN ULSTER TO TAKE INDEPENDENT "RETALIATORY" ACTION AGAINST ARMY UNITS. ALTHOUGH THE ARMY IS DETERMINED TO AVOID BEING PLACED IN POSITION WHERE IT CAN BE ACCUSED OF BREAKING CEASEFIRE IT HAS STEPPED UP PATROLS, ROAD BLOCKS, AND SCREENING OPERATIONS AND THERE SEEMS BE NO MEANS OF ESCAPING SPIRAL OF ACTITN/REACTION IF PROVISIONALS WISH PURSUE THIS STRATEGY. ALONG WITH PROVISIONAL INTENTIONS, CRITICAL ELEMENT IS INTENTIONS PROTESTANT PARA-MILITARY GROUPS. GLENN BARR AS CHAIRMAN ULSTER LOYALIST CENTRAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE WARNED THAT PARAMILITARIES LEADERSHIP UNDER GROWING PRESSURE FROM RANK-AND-FILE MEMBERS TO END CEASEFIRE IN FACE REPUBLICAN ACTIONS. THESE DEVELOPMENTS

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TOGETHER WITH CRITICISM OF "SHAM" CEASEFIRE BY LOYALISTS LOCALLY

AND IN HOUSE OF LORDS HAVE CAST CONSIDERABLE PESSIMISM ON
CONTINUATION CEASEFIRE.

2. ANOTHER ELEMENT IN ULSTER SITUATION IS IMPRESSION OF UNEASE
AMONG MIDDLE RANKS ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC) ABOUT
CEASEFIRE
POLICY. RECENT ATTACKS ON POLICE AND STATEMENT FROM
PROVISIONALS THAT RUC NOT INCLUDED IN CEASEFIRE HAVE HEIGHTENED
UNEASE. ACCORDING KNOWLEDGEABLE LOCAL RESIDENT, ONE
CONSEQUENC THIS DISQUIET HAS BEEN LEAKAGE SECURITY INFORMATION TO
LOYALIST POLITICIANS NOTABLY TO REVEREND IAN PAISLEY. IT
RECALLED PAISLEY FOREMOST PROPONENT OF THEORY THAT CEASEFIRE
WAS DEAL TO BUY OFF PROVISIONALS FROM EXTENDING TERROR CAMPAIGN
TO GREAT BRITAIN AT EXPENSE NORTHERN IRELAND. IN VISIT TO PROVINCE
SEPT. 25 POLICE FEDERATION CHAIRMAN LESLIE MALE AND SECRETARY OF JOE
MARTUCCI EXPRESSED SHOCK OVER "SHABBY" TREATMENT OF POLICE BY
GOVERNMENT AND EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM OVER CEASEFIRE. RUC UNEASE
MAY ALSO BE AT ROOT OF RECONSIDERATION DEVISION CHIEF SONSTABLE
SIR JAMIE FLANAGAN TO RETIRE AT END OF 1975. HE HAS NOW EXTENDED TO
MID-1976. IT RUMOURD ONE REASON FOR EXTENSION WAS DESIGNATED
REPLACEMENT IS ENGLISH AND UNACCEPTABLE TO NORTHERN IRISH RUC.
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